

Technical Guidelines Development Committee
March 22-23, 2007, Plenary Meeting

Draft VVSG
Recommendations to the EAC
OVERVIEW

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Technical Guidelines Development Committee

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Timeline for the next months

- Make changes as per this meeting
- Some material needs further definition
 - Open ended vulnerability testing requirements
 - Innovation class requirements
 - Remaining STS and CRT core material
- Final updates to usability requirements
- Harmonize material, reduce overlaps, review for consistency
- Write introductory and guide material
- Final formatting and cross-referencing

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After Delivery to the EAC

- NIST will post the Draft VVSG Recommendations on <http://vote.nist.gov>
- EAC will review, may make adjustments, begin public review process
- NIST will assist EAC in vetting with Standards Board, other groups as requested
- NIST will assist EAC in public review process and final document preparation
- Final version likely in 2008
- Could be affected by pending Congressional legislation

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TGDC Resolution 23-05: Common Ballot Format Specifications

The TGDC has concluded that the adoption of standard formats for election-related information, such as ballots (both blank and filled-in), has many positive benefits and is worth pursuing. An example of such a standard is OASIS Election Markup Language (EML) Version 4.0, which is an XML-based specification. The TGDC therefore requests NIST to do research and develop standards documents:

1. Specifying what existing election information format standards (or portions thereof or variations thereof) are acceptable for use in voting systems, and
2. Requiring that voting systems use such standards wherever possible.

NIST's evaluation of existing election information standards shall consider fitness for function under existing election codes, security, ease and cost of implementation, and other factors judged relevant by NIST. If no existing election information format standards (or portions thereof, or variations thereof) are judged by NIST, upon its detailed examination, to be acceptable for current use, then NIST should so recommend, and this resolution will have no net effect at this time.

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Status as of 2007-03-22

- Two potentially relevant standards efforts
 - OASIS Election and Voter Services TC, Election Markup Language (EML)
 - IEEE Project 1622, Voting Systems Electronic Data Interchange
- IEEE Project 1622 has not adopted anything yet
- OASIS current rev is EML 4
 - NIST submitted issues
- EML 5 has not been adopted yet
 - May be OASIS standard by Summer, 2007

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Conclusion

- The only adopted standard, EML, is still maturing
- No standard has consensus support by the U.S. voting equipment industry
- No standard is ready for a government mandate in the new VVSG at this point

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Next Steps

- The VVSG will specify the requirements for an election information format without requiring a specific format
- The VVSG Discussion will mention EML as a possibility, as is done now in VVSG 2005
- NIST will communicate VVSG requirements to OASIS and IEEE to assist in continued standards development